

STATE OF ALASKA DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY

CASE NO. 94-47710

CHECK BOX IF PROPERTY VALUES LISTED BELOW ARE SUPPLEMENTS TO ORIGINAL REPORT ☐

21-A (REV. 1984) INV. REPORT

VEHICLE INFO		NUMB. 1	LICENSE PLATE NO.		STATE	VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NO.				VEH. YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	BODY STYLE		
COLOR	NUMB. OCCUP.	MALE	FEM.	EVIDENCE FOUND IN VEHICLE	YES	NO	VEHICLE STATUS	IMPOUND	STOLEN	SEIZED	SUSPECT	AIRCRAFT INFORMATION	NUMB. REGISTRATION (N) NUMBER		
MAKE	MODEL		YEAR	COLOR	LANDING GEAR TYPE		AIRCRAFT STATUS	IMPOUND	STOLEN	SEIZED	SUSPECT				
WATER CRAFT INFO	NUMBER	USCG OR DOCUMENTATION NO.		NAME OF WATER CRAFT				MAKE	LENGTH						
TYPE	COLOR	ADF&G NUMBER		HULL SHAPE	HULL MAT'L	PROPULSION	WATER-CRAFT STATUS	IMPOUND	STOLEN	SEIZED	SUSPECT				
PHOTOS	SCENE	☒	AUTOPSY	OTHER		EXHIBITS	WAVES RIGHTS	ALCOH. INF. RPT.	OTHER		EVIDENCE SEIZED	YES	NO		
	VICTIM		EVIDENCE	☒			DIAGRAM	☒	IMPL. CONSENT			☒			
PROPERTY LOSS VALUES BY TYPE AND OFFENSE (See Codes on Back)															
OFFN #	TYPE	\$ AMOUNT		OFFN #	TYPE	\$ AMOUNT		OFFN #	TYPE	\$ AMOUNT		OFFN #	TYPE	\$ AMOUNT	
OFFN #	TYPE	\$ AMOUNT		OFFN #	TYPE	\$ AMOUNT		OFFN #	TYPE	\$ AMOUNT		OFFN #	TYPE	\$ AMOUNT	
OFFN #	TYPE	\$ AMOUNT		OFFN #	TYPE	\$ AMOUNT		OFFN #	TYPE	\$ AMOUNT		OFFN #	TYPE	\$ AMOUNT	
OFFN #	TYPE	\$ AMOUNT		OFFN #	TYPE	\$ AMOUNT		OFFN #	TYPE	\$ AMOUNT		OFFN #	TYPE	\$ AMOUNT	
TOTAL PROPERTY LOSS/RECOVERY VALUES - EACH OFFENSE															
OFFN #	\$ LOSS	\$ RECOVERED		OFFN #	\$ LOSS	\$ RECOVERED		OFFN #	\$ LOSS	\$ RECOVERED		OFFN #	\$ LOSS	\$ RECOVERED	

SYNOPSIS:

On 7-26-94, at approximately 8:46am, Soldotna AST received at report that a [REDACTED] had been pulled into the woods off of Island Lake Road, in Nikiski and raped.

Investigation revealed that [REDACTED] had been walking down a bicycle path near Porter Ave on Island Lake Road and that a white male adult who had been riding a blue in color 10 speed bicycle had grabbed her, threatened to kill her, pulled her into the woods and sexually assaulted her.

On 7-29-94, a bicycle with tires that appeared to match identically those tracks found at the scene along with cowboy boots and other clothing items were seized from Ruple Smith and his residence on Search Warrant # 3KN 94-78 SW. At this same time Smith made admissions that he was riding his bicycle in the area, he did not know the girl and that he did not know why he did what he did. An arrest warrant was obtained for Smith charging him with Sexual Assault 1st. Deg and Sexual Abuse of a Minor 2nd. Deg.

Smith was arrested and incarcerated at Wildwood Pretrial.

ARREST	PROS DECL	UNFOUNDED	NO O/LEADS	EXCEPTION	CASE REF.	REFERRED TO	COPIES TO
☒							DISTRICT ATTORNEY
REPORTING OFFICER	PERM. IDENT.	REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY	PERM. IDENT.	DATE CLOSED			
SGT. R. BARNES	RLB2	<i>[Signature]</i>	WR60	9/6/94			

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

FILE NO. 94-47710

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS, B DETACHMENT SOLE POST

INVESTIGATED BY Sgt. Robert Barnes (RLB2) DATE(S) INVESTIGATED July 26 19 94

TITLE OF CASE SEXUAL ASSAULT 1°

DISPATCH:

On 7/26/94 at approximately 8:46 AM, Sgt. Barnes was advised by AST Dispatch that a sexual assault/kidnapping incident had just been reported in the Nikiski area. It was reported that a [REDACTED] was drug into the woods and raped, and that the victim had been walking along Island Lake Road to her babysitters when the incident occurred. At that time Sgt. Barnes and Trooper Leichliter responded to the [REDACTED] residence located on Marion Court off Island Lake Road in Nikiski. Sgt. Barnes and Trooper Leichliter arrived at the Scott residence at approximately 9:19 AM.

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

FILE NO. 94-47710

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS, B DETACHMENT SOLE POST

INVESTIGATED BY Sgt. Robert Barnes (RLB2) DATE(S) INVESTIGATED July 26 19 94

TITLE OF CASE SEXUAL ASSAULT 1°

OBSERVATIONS:

Upon arrival at the Scott trailer house, Trooper Lechlitter, Sgt. Barnes and Lonnie Scott arrived at the same time.

Lonnie Scott, identified as the father of [REDACTED] was obviously very upset and emotional.

It was observed that the mother, identified as Trudy Scott, exited her residence upon arrival of the investigating Troopers. Trudy Scott was obviously distraught.

Upon entering the Scott residence, [REDACTED] was observed sitting on the couch in the living room. The girl, identified as [REDACTED] was obviously upset and distraught and appeared to have been crying. [REDACTED] was sitting with her hands clasped in her lap, her head bowed, and was observed to be wearing what appeared to be a shirt that came down to approximately mid-thigh level. The shirt was black and white in color. [REDACTED] was also observed wearing shoes with white socks.

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

FILE
NO. 94-47710

ALASKA STATE TROOPERS, B DETACHMENT SOLE POST

INVESTIGATED BY Sgt. Robert Barnes (RLB2) DATE(S) INVESTIGATED July 26 19 94

TITLE OF CASE SEXUAL ASSAULT 1°

INVESTIGATION: (Continued)

Upon examining the wooded area where [REDACTED] advised that she believed a comb had fallen out of her coat pocket at the scene where the sexual assault occurred, Trooper Leichliter and Sgt. Barnes did observe and locate a pink colored comb in the woods near this area approximately 50 feet south from Island Lake Road. This comb was photographed and seized as evidence. The location where the comb was found was observed to be grassy and brush covered. There was also a small area, approximately two foot squared area where it appeared as if grass and leaves in this area had been pressed down against the ground surface. This area was covered by plastic bags by Trooper Leichliter for further investigation.

Approximately 100 yards west of this location was a paved driveway leading south from Island Lake Road. This driveway led into a wood frame residence which did not appear to be occupied, which was identified to be the old Midnight residence. Approximately 100 yards northwest of this residence, a trailer house was observed. There was a patch approximately 100 to 150 feet wide of tall grass and trees separating the Midnight residence and the trailer house. [REDACTED] had advised she lost her white pants somewhere between the residence and trailer house. These white pants were located by Trooper Leichliter, photographed, and seized as evidence.

While Sgt. Barnes and Trooper Leichliter were investigating the scene for possible items of evidence, Trooper Clark was patrolling the Cook Inlet Processing/Nikiski areas looking for any suspects that fit the description given by the victim, [REDACTED]

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FILE
NO. 94-47710ALASKA STATE TROOPERS, B DETACHMENT SOLE POSTINVESTIGATED BY SGT. ROBERT BARNES (RLB2) DATE(S)
INVESTIGATED 7-26 19 94TITLE OF CASE SEXUAL ASSAULT 1ST. DEG.INVESTIGATION:

It was further reported that a Ruple Smith lived in the area and that he had a blue in color bicycle and that it was believed he had also ridden his bicycle on Island Lake Road.

On 7-26-94, a photo line up was requested on Ruple Smith

Trooper Leichliter, Trooper Clark and Sgt. Barnes examined the area for other blue in color bicycles with similar tires as which would have made the tracks at the scene with negative results. Trooper Leichliter walked the trail from the scene to the Spur Highway, Sgt. Barnes drove around the area looking at residences in the area, checking for blue in color bicycles which matched the suspect bicycle description. No other blue in color bicycles that matched the description as that given by the suspect were located on Island Lake Rd. or adjoining roads.

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NO. 94-47710ALASKA STATE TROOPERS, B DETACHMENT SOLE POSTINVESTIGATED BY SGT. ROBERT BARNES (RLB2) DATE(S) INVESTIGATED 7-26 19 94TITLE OF CASE SEXUAL ASSAULT 1ST. DEG.INVESTIGATION CONTINUED:

On 7-27-94, Dick Carpenter, an AST dispatcher, Artist, from Anchorage came to Soldotna AST to draw a composite drawing of the suspect as described by the victim.

On 7-28-94, a picture of the composite drawn by Dick Carpenter was published in the Clarion, after the paper was published numerous telephone calls were received by citizens calling AST to give possible suspect information. A log was initiated by Trooper Leichter to record the suspect information and complainant information if given. The log started at 7:50am. An attempt was made to record the majority of the calls.

At approximately 9:59 am, on 7-28-94, Ruple Smith telephoned Soldotna AST stating that he had friends that told him he looked like the sketch in the paper and wanted the description of the suspect.

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The initial investigation revealed two possible suspects that lived in the area and who had and rode blue in color bicycles. This was information received from the public to AST.

These two persons were identified as [REDACTED] and Ruple Smith. [REDACTED] eliminated [REDACTED] after viewing his photo lineup and after it was found that his bicycle did not match that described by the victim.

On 7-29-94, at approximately 12:26pm, Sgt. Barnes was telephoned by Trooper Clark advising that he had just had contact with Ruple Smith at the Smith residence on [REDACTED] Trooper Clark stated that Smith matched the description of the suspect and that Smith had a blue in color bicycle that had tires on it that matched the tracks located at the scene.

Sgt. Barnes then responded to the Nikiski area, met Trooper Clark and went to the Smith residence at approximately 1:45pm. At approximately 1:49pm, Sgt. Barnes interviewed Ruple Smith in Sgt. Barnes' patrol vehicle. During the interview Smith made admissions which indicated he committed the rape. After the interview Ruple was told he could visit with his friends who were at the scene.

After the interview Sgt. Barnes telephoned F/SGT. Gause advising him that Smith was the guilty suspect. During the telephone call made from the patrol vehicle, Trooper Clark was standing by the drivers door of the patrol vehicle. Ruple Smith approached Trooper Clark and stated something to the effect that he knew where his cowboy boots were and that they were in the red house or his house. Smith then was observed to walk into the red house (Dean residence) and exit with no boots. Smith then walked into his residence and shortly thereafter came walking out with a pair of cowboy boots. Smith then set the cowboy boots on the ground near the drivers door to Sgt. Barnes patrol vehicle.

While at the Ruple Smith and Larry Dean residences a blue in color 10 speed bicycle was observed just to the left of the entrance to the Dean residence. It was immediately obvious that this bicycle had tires that would leave tire tracks identical to those found at the scene. It was noted that the front tires had a straight circular tread around the tire that had wider grooves than the front tire.

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Sgt. Barnes then telephoned District Attorney Sharon Illsley and made arrangements to obtain a search warrant. Sgt. Barnes then recontacted Ruple Smith who was standing near his driveway talking to Trooper Clark. The contact was recorded and was to inform Ruple Smith that I would be leaving to obtain a search warrant so that he was aware of what was occurring.

During the contact with Smith, Smith advised that he could get the clothes that he was wearing on Tuesday and that he knew right where they were. Smith was then observed to walk into his residence and return shortly with a pair of blue jeans and a t-shirt. The items were folded.

The items were then observed to be set on top on the engine hood to Trooper Clarks patrol vehicle. Neither the cowboy boots nor the jeans or t-shirt were seized at this time. They were not seized until Sgt. Barnes returned with the search warrant.

Sgt. Barnes then drove to Kenai, contacted District Attorney Sharon Illsley who then went to court and obtained Search Warrant #3KN94-78 SW, After conversing with the District Attorney it was also decided to obtain an arrest warrant for Ruple Smith. An arrest warrant was then obtained.

At approximately 4:54pm, on 7-29-94, Sgt. Barnes then returned to the Ruple Smith residence. At this time it was noted that Smith was standing outside the Dean residence talking on a telephone. Smith then approached Sgt. Barnes and advised that his attorney Carol Brenckle was on the telephone and wanted to talk to the person in charge. In essence Brenckle advised that she would be representing Smith and that he was advised not to say anymore.

Search Warrant #3KN94-78 SW was then executed. The bicycle which was still standing near the entrance to the Dean residence was seized and placed in Trooper Clarks Patrol vehicle to be transported to AST. The cowboy boots, blue jeans and t-shirt that Smith had brought out of his residence was then seized. Sgt. Barnes, Trooper Schoenberg and Larry Dean then entered and searched the Smith residence. It was found that the interior of the residence was cluttered and dirty. Upon entering the residence you essentially enter the living room area with a kitchen area to the right. Upon waking back through the living room there is a stairway leading to the second story, and continueing on back is a bedroom. The bedroom was cluttered, with some clothes scattered around. A pair of blue jeans and shorts were seized from this area, no other blue jeans with zippers were found in the residence. There was no blue in color coat found in the residence. No other boots were found in the residence. Ruple Smith was allowed to wear his Northlake boots to Wildwood Pretrial before they were seized. The Northlake boots which are similiar to Wellingtons appeared to be similiar to the suspect shoe prints found at the scene. A copy of the search warrant was left at the Smith residence.

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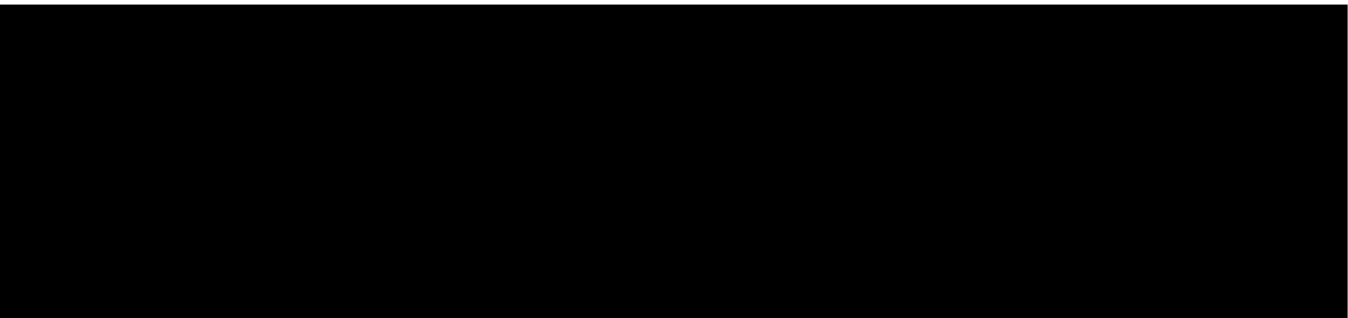
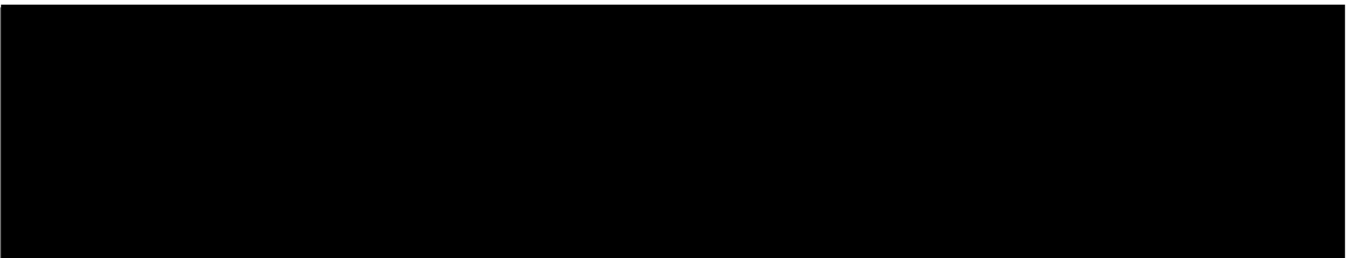
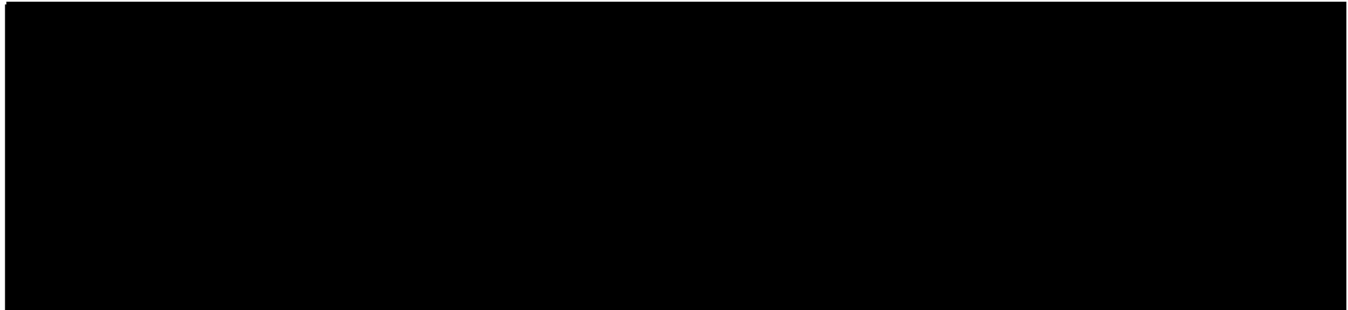
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INVESTIGATED 7-26 19 94TITLE OF CASE SEXUAL ASSAULT 1ST. DEG.INVESTIGATION CONTINUED:

The bicycle tires were examined, it was found that wider grooves on the front tire and narrower grooves on the rear tire, which matches the tire tracks found at the scene. It was found that the tire size were 27inch by an 1 1/4 inches in width. The front tire brand name was (Swallow), it was a white wall tire on a chrome rim. Photographs were taken of the bicycle, clothing items, pack, cowboy boots and Northlake boots at AST. The north lake boots were found to be size 9 1/2, were dark brown in color, well worn and the sole was measured at approximately 12" in length, 4 1/4 inches across the center of the sole and 2 15/16" across the heel of the track. It was found that

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INVESTIGATED 7-26 19 94TITLE OF CASE SEXUAL ASSAULT 1ST. DEG.INVESTIGATION CONTINUED:

the bicycle had a red in color battery pack attached to the frame and a small chrome colored rack over the rear tire.

Clothing seized from [REDACTED] and clothing seized from Ruple Smith was sent to the AST lab. On 8-2-94, Janis Fair telephoned Sgt. Barnes from the lab and advised that a broken head hair was found on the drop sheet and a hair was found in the victims panties. Fair advised that she was not sure whether the hair found on the panties was a pubic hair or body hair. At this time the remainder of the clothing had not been examined.

It was found that the approximate mileage from Ruple Smiths residence to the scene was 4.3 miles, traveling via, Holt Lamplight to Miller Loop to Island Lake Road.

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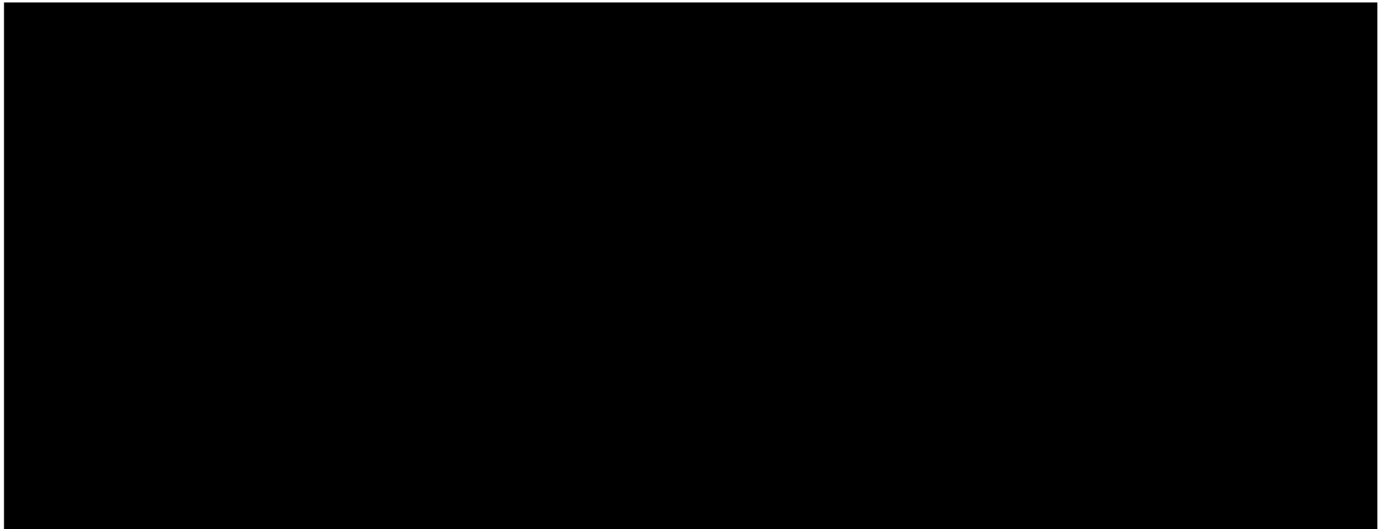
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ALASKA STATE TROOPERS, B DETACHMENT SOLE POST

INVESTIGATED BY SGT. ROBERT BARNES (RLB2) DATE(S) INVESTIGATED 7-26 19 94

TITLE OF CASE SEXUAL ASSAULT 1ST. DEG.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUED:



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Investigator Beldon and Trooper Leichter went to the scene of the rape on the night of 7-26-94, after dark in an attempt to use a fluorescent light to detect any semen or blood stains. This effort met with essentially negative results but Inv. Beldon did retain a leaf that he found at the scene with a possible stain on it. This leaf was sent to the lab for examination.

Both pairs of Ruple Smiths boots and the bicycle tires were sent to the AST lab along with photographs and negatives of the bicycle tire tracks and shoe prints found at the scene for comparison purposes. These photographs were duplicates of the bicycle tire tracks which were numbered 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23, numbers 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 54, and 55 were of the shoe prints found at the scene.

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ALASKA STATE TROOPERS, B DETACHMENT SOLE POST

INVESTIGATED BY SGT. ROBERT BARNES (RLB2) DATE(S) INVESTIGATED 7-26 18 94

TITLE OF CASE SEXUAL ASSAULT 1ST. DEG.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUED:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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FILE
NO. 94-47710ALASKA STATE TROOPERS, B DETACHMENT SOLE POSTINVESTIGATED BY Sgt. Robert Barnes (RLB2) DATE(S)
INVESTIGATED July 27 19 94TITLE OF CASE SEXUAL ASSAULT 1°SUSPECT DESCRIPTION:

██████████ described the suspect as being a white male in his late 20's or early 30's, approximately 5'9" tall, 170 lbs., sandy colored hair, collar to shoulder length hair, two to three days growth of beard, no mustache and no glasses. The suspect was described as wearing bluejeans that had a zipper, cowboy boots, possibly black in color, and had more of a rounded toe rather than a pointed toe. The suspect was also described as wearing a blue in color coat with a zipper up the front, no hood, and a patch on the left shoulder. The patch had a yellow in color bird in the center of it with possibly a blue background on the remainder of the patch.

BICYCLE DESCRIPTION:

The bicycle was described as being an older model 10-speed, blue in color with narrow tires on it. The handle bars were described as coming out, down and up. There were no other descriptors given on the bicycle.

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TITLE OF CASE SEXUAL ASSAULT 1ST. DEG.

EXECUTION OF SEARCH WARRANT:

At approximately 4:59pm, on 7-29-94, Search Warrant 3KN-94-78 was executed. Sgt. Barnes, Trooper Schoenberg, Larry Dean and Trooper Clark were present.

One pair of brown in color Tony Lama Cowboy boots, one pair of blue jeans and a T-shirt were seized from outside the Smith residence where Ruple Smith had previously brought the items and stated that they were the clothes he was wearing that day. A blue in color Schwinn bicycle that Ruple Smith stated was his was seized from in front of the Larry Dean residence.

Seized from inside the Smith residence was a pair of blue jeans with a zipper, a pair of jockey shorts, a Clarion Newspaper dated 7-28-94 which was folded open displaying the composite of the rape suspect, a steno note pad with Ruple written on it and a tan in color hip pouch which contained misc. pictures, papers, one pair of rubber gloves and a condom.

The search warrant service concluded at approximately 5:51pm and a copy was left in the Smith residence.

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